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George Bush could be one of better selections

THE SECOND guessers are pouring the heat on President Ford for his selection of George Bush to succeed William Colby as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

They suggest that having been chairman of the Republican National Committee he may be too politically oriented to do an impartial job in the highly sensitive CIA.

No one will condone the playing of politics by administrators of the CIA. If it naturally follows that Bush would be political because he has been chairman of a political party his choice would warrant criticism. But if his past record would indicate that he places principles above politics — and his record does — the fact he has served his party as

chairman should not disqualify him.

A PERSON who serves as party chairman indicates his interest in government and frequently demonstrates his qualifications for a responsible government post.

As an example, Cordell Hull was recognized as a distinguished secretary of state. He had previously served as chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Others who distinguished themselves in responsible government positions after having served as national political party chairmen were Democrat Homer Cummings, attorney general; Republican Rogers Morton, secretary of commerce and secretary of interior:

Republican Dean Burch, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Democrat Scoop Jackson, Democrat Fred Harris and Republican Bob Dole, senators or ex-senators respected for their roles in government.

QUALIFICATIONS for CIA directors were described in a report by the Rockefeller Commission earlier this year. The commission said:

"Consideration should be given to individuals from outside the career service of the CIA, although promotion from within should not be barred. Experience in intelligence service is not necessarily a prerequisite for the position; management and administrative skills are at least as important as the technical expertise which can always be found in an able deputy."

The commission also emphasized that the best assurance against misuse of the CIA lies in the appointment of a director "with judgment, courage and independence to resist improper pressure and importuning, whether from the White House, within the agency or elsewhere."

The integrity of the appointee is more important than the role he has previously played in politics. If Bush places the duties of CIA director above all else and is not influenced by possible future political ambitions he should prove to be one of President Ford's better selections.